



**Town of Arlington
Board of Selectmen**

Meeting Agenda

April 24, 2017

7:00 PM

EMERGENCY ADDENDUM Selectmen's Chambers, 2nd Floor

WARRANT ARTICLE HEARINGS

Article for Review:

Article 27 Acceptance of Legislation/Special Education Reserve Fund



Town of Arlington, Massachusetts

Article for Review:

Summary:

Article 27 Acceptance of Legislation/Special Education Reserve Fund

ATTACHMENTS:

Type	File Name	Description
Reference Material	SPED_RESERVE_FUND_ACCEPTANCE_OF_LEGISLATION_HEARING_REF_MAT.docx	warrant article

**ARTICLE 27 ACCEPTANCE OF LEGISLATION/SPECIAL EDUCATION
RESERVE FUND**

To see if the Town will vote to accept provisions of Chapter 218 of the Acts of 2016 ("An Act Modernizing Municipal Finance and Government"), Section 24, which amends M.G.L. c. 40 by inserting section 13D, to allow the Town/Arlington Public Schools to establish a reserve fund to pay, without further appropriation, for unanticipated or unbudgeted costs of special education, out-of-district tuition, or transportation; or take any action related thereto.

(Inserted at the request of the Superintendent of the Arlington Public Schools)

Acceptance of this provision of the Massachusetts Municipal Modernization Act will allow Arlington Public Schools to more efficiently and effectively address the often unpredictable costs of special education through establishment of a new reserve fund. The Town and APS presently attempt to manage these costs through a Special Education Stabilization Fund, which requires Town Meeting appropriation action to fulfill the School District's special education obligations in any given school year. By accepting this provision, a similar fund would be created and used but would be accessed through approval of the School Committee, which would eliminate considerable uncertainty in the School District's budgeting process. It should be emphasized that a Town Meeting vote is still required to appropriate initial money into the reserve fund, and further, that the balance of such a fund may not exceed 2% of the annual net school spending of the School District. Moreover, a majority of the School Committee must approve the establishment of the reserve.